

In fact

For The Millions Who Want a Free Press

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George Seldes, Editor

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Native Fascist Exposed

IN FACT has received the following letter from Director J Edgar Hoover of the FBI:

"This is in acknowledgement of your letter . . . enclosing a letter . . . addressed to you by George W Christians, Chattanooga, Tenn [organizer of Fascist Knights of the White Camelia].

"Please be advised that a copy of your letter and the original enclosure which accompanied same [threatening the life of President Roosevelt] have been furnished Mr Frank J Wilson, chief, Secret Service Division . . . who is charged with the duty of protecting the life of the President.

"Your courtesy in communicating with this Bureau is appreciated.

John Edgar Hoover, Director."

Sues Hearst for \$600,000

THE California CIO unions and Harry Bridges, whose activities in organizing unions have cost employers millions of dollars in higher wages and therefore aroused the anger of the commercial press and its brasschecker writers such as Pegler, Lawrence, Sokolsky, Sullivan, have entered suit against the Hearst newspaper chain (19 papers in 18 big cities). San Francisco Call-Bulletin and Examiner are named but similar editorials ("falsely and untruthfully and with full knowledge statements were untrue") appeared also in NY Journal-American (Dec 27). The venal Hearst press, representing also Hearst mines, fruit and canning interests of California, accused Bridges of "interfering with the national defense" whereas the truth is that Bridges is one of the many CIO leaders who has been trying to get OPM to adopt a new defense program whereby loading and unloading of ships will be doubled.

Bridges Defense Committee also brands as falsehoods statements in the Hearst press (also repeated by radio commentators including Winchell) that Bridges advised West Coast CIO unions to make reports on sabotage, espionage, etc, to union officials and not the FBI. Fact: Bridges urged California CIO convention Dec 13-14 to cooperate completely with the US authorities, especially urging unions to make reports to FBI.

On Jan 19 the Women's Patriotic Conference on National Defense, 736 delegates representing 30 patriotic organizations, passed resolutions demanding the deportation of Bridges and the "burning" of Harold Rugg's books. These organizations have a history of 20 years of labor-baiting, and red-baiting and 20 years of refusal to take action against Fascism in any form. (In his farewell

First War Casualties: the Liberal Weeklies; What's Wrong With Marshall Field's Chicago Sun?

ONE of the real tragedies of this war is the disappearance of a number of publications devoted to telling the truth. All were devoted to the general welfare of the American people rather than the profits of the vested interests, or Big Business, or the National Association of Manufacturers and other advertisers who own or control and pervert the big magazines and big newspapers, and which are the chief enemies of America's general welfare.—(Documentation: Monograph 26, TNEC or Monopoly Committee.)

In the first World War a few liberal publications were actually suppressed by the Dep't of Justice or Postmaster General Burleson; many more important ones were merely scared into silence or half-hearted expression. Senator Bob LaFollette Sr, Scott Nearing, Upton Sinclair, Charles A Lindbergh Sr, Eugene V Debs, and others then stated that J P Morgan & Co, Big Business, the munitions interests, and chiefly British and German imperialism were involved in that World War, and that the slogan "To Make the World Safe for Democracy" was false. Naturally these men were silenced, and their books and writings suppressed. Years later every charge they made was proven true.

In the present World War the situation is different. There is no suppression of publications. Even treasonable weeklies published by native Fascists still circulate. There is no open opposition to America's participation, there cannot be since the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, and today it is not a LaFollette or a Nearing or a Sinclair or Debs who exposes the war profiteers but the Government itself, through the Tolan, Truman and Arnold reports. (The only similarity is the suppression of names of the guilty, the same old defense of corrupt Big Business by the commercial press, but that does not stop the government from weeding out the saboteurs.)

The tragic death of members of the small, free, liberal truth-telling press today merely coincides with the war, it is not directly caused by the war: the cause is a more ancient one—lack of money.

IN FACT Will Be Sent to US Week Subscribers

U S WEEK. The most tragic death of all is that of US Week, which was started with the help of the William E Dodd Foundation, as a memorial to the great anti-Nazi US ambassador to Berlin, one of the first among the few prominent men of America to fight Fascism. The fund was administered by Ambassador Dodd's son, Wm Jr, his daughter, Martha, and her husband, Alfred K Stern, a leader of the American Labor Party.

The purpose of US Week was to supply a weekly review of the world's news without the distortions and pro-Fascist slant of "Time" or the Big Business viewpoint of "Newsweek." Henry R Luce founded Time with the aid of Morgan partner Henry P Davison. In the 1936 statement of ownership Davison is listed as an owner; in the 1940 statement it reads: "J P Morgan & Co (Acc't of Henry P Davison)".

Mr Luce claims the amount held by the Morgan partner is small. Nevertheless, large or small, it is a fact that Time on several occasions completely falsified the documentary record of the Nye Committee blaming Morgan for steering the US financial system into World War I. Luce has also permitted Morgan partner Thomas W Lamont to censor his articles. For years Time favored Mussolini and his brand of Fascism. Fortune July 1934 was devoted 95% to boosting Italian Fascism. Luce made public speeches saying "without the aristocratic principle no society can endure." This is pure Hitler. A Luce writer, Dwight Macdonald, said in 1937, "it is premature to call Time Inc Fascist. Proto-Fascist would be more accurate."

Newsweek, according to its statement of ownership, is partly directed by A K Lockett, of Morgan & Co, who succeeded Lamont as director of Collier's. Vincent Astor, Brown Bros, Harriman, other Wall St corporations, mostly reactionary and some native-Fascist, own Newsweek. Under the editorship of Rex Smith (now managing editor Chicago Sun), Newsweek rebaited the Spanish Republic, defended the murderous Franco.

In a letter to US Week readers dated Jan 14 Editor Richard O Boyer said

frankly: "This letter is . . . an obituary . . . of US Week which has been forced to suspend publication because of lack of funds. . . . US Week . . . fought against Fascism, fought for national unity in the great struggle against Axis powers, fought for the rights of labor and a square deal for the farmer, fought to bring all of the truth and not just a part of it, to all of the people. . . .

"We've probably made a good many mistakes. . . . We should have charged more for US Week. If we had we might have eliminated the operating deficit which at last became too large even for those generous people who subsidized our experiment in a new and independent type of journalism."

(Note to US Week readers: IN FACT has taken over the subscription list but no obligations. We will supply, free of charge, the balance of your subscription. This means a financial loss to us. We do this in the hope you will immediately subscribe to IN FACT.)

Advertisers' Boycott Killed Friday

FRIDAY. This weekly ((later changed to a monthly called Scoop) was founded by Dan Gillmor (son of Admiral Gillmor), who shortly after the appearance of "Lords of the Press" called on the editor of IN FACT with the plan to establish a free and honest newspaper in NYC with a million dollars he had inherited.

It was pointed out to Gillmor that Roy Howard spent \$11,000,000 to make the World-Telegram profitable, that David Stern had sunk \$3,800,000 (a large amount of it coming from Ralph B Strassberger) into the NYPost and had not turned the corner. It would take at least \$5,000,000, maybe ten, to start a paper in NYC, and if it did not surrender its virtue every morning or night to the advertisers, it would need a million a year forever.

Gillmor consulted Newspaper Guildsmen and other experts, then decided to start a national popular picture magazine, but not corrupted by advertising and other Big Business control. He believed that if he had circulation he could get advertising without licking the backside of Big Money. In this he was of course mistaken.

Collier's, as has been stated, is controlled by J P Morgan. The SEPost was part of an \$18,000,000 estate. It is published by a man who has just finished a term as president and still directs the Nat'l Ass'n of Manufacturers which the TNEC investigation named the first enemy of the general welfare of America. Liberty was founded by Col McCormick and Cap't Patterson at a time it paid them to lose \$5,000,000 a year because of the super-taxes. Bernarr Macfadden later bought it. Now it is run by another corporation. It is the mouthorgan of Chairman Martin Dies, also George E Sokolsky, exposed by LaFollette Comm as a secretly paid agent of the Nat'l Ass'n of Manufacturers.

In his farewell letter to Friday (Scoop) readers Dan Gillmor wrote: "Every issue . . . was published at a deficit—often a very large deficit. It costs just as much to print and publish an honest, progressive picture magazine as it does to produce an ordinary commercial magazine which caters to the whims of the corporations that advertise in it and the pressure they exert.

"The difference is that advertisers will not buy space in a publication like Friday. . . . I carried the enormous deficit for nearly two years. We could not break through the 'boycott' and I would not change the principles upon which the magazine was founded. You would not have wanted me to adopt a dishonest policy. . . . The Nov issue exceeded 300,000 copies sold. But without advertising volume the greater the circulation the greater the loss. I was forced to suspend publication.

"I have spent a fortune in my attempt to give you the kind of magazine you wanted, the kind I believe America needed. . . . But the odds against me were too heavy."

Mr Gillmor is said to have lost between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000 on Friday and Scoop.

PROPAGANDA ANALYSIS. This monthly bulletin "to help the intelligent citizen detect and analyze propaganda," was published by the Institute for Propaganda Analysis. Vol IV, No 13, just received, is headed "We Say Au Revoir." We hope this proves true; we hope it will be revived after the war. It is a real war casualty.

(We will publish next week the details of the suspension of PA and a statement on Democracy and Propaganda by the secretary of the Institute, Prof Clyde R Miller.)

American Guardian and Release

THE AMERICAN GUARDIAN. This publication put up a 25-year fight against war and the abuses of the profit system. While Life, Time, Fortune, Newsweek, Collier's, SatEvePost and the like were boosting Fascism in one form or another, native and foreign, Oscar Ameringer in this Oklahoma weekly was fighting it. Years ago he wrote: "Running a liberal paper is like feeding butter on the end of a hot awl to an infuriated wild-cat."

In his final letter to his more than 30,000 subscribers—he had 40,000 when World War II began—Ameringer says he is quitting for two reasons: the state of his health, and "financial difficulties. Like all publications of this character,

address George Washington said "Beware of the impostures of pretended patriotism.")

14,000,000 Foreign Born

THE American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, 79 Fifth ave, NYC, has opened a campaign to mobilize 14,000,000 Americans of foreign birth to support and participate in the war effort for victory over Hitler. Special literature in foreign languages showing how Americans of foreign birth can protect America by exposing Axis agents will be published.

The Press as Employer

IN addition to covering up the failures of Big Business to subordinate profits to the national interest and thus delaying by many months the defense program, the commercial press is also active in its own role as a Big Business enterprise. The American Newspaper Guild is confronted with a situation in which the publishers are planning to take advantage of the war to break down the Guild by mass firings and violations of contract. Leader in this dirty work, as in most of the dirty work the press has been engaged in for several generations, is Hearst.

Several weeks ago the NY Mirror (Hearst) told the Guild it was firing 34 employees; reason, "reduction of staff." "Why reduce the staff?" the Guild asked. "It's a dark outlook," replied management. "Financially dark?" the Guild asked. Management wouldn't answer; couldn't answer, because the Guild knew the facts. During 1941 the Mirror made more money than at any time in its history—a gain of 400,000 lines of advertising; and this gain was continuing during the first half of January. By swinging into action immediately, holding a mass grievance session with management—when 250 Mirror employees stopped work to attend—the Guild has thus far succeeded in halting the firings. It is willing to arbitrate, but management has balked.

On the Brooklyn Eagle, NYPost (which is running at a dangerously high deficit) and City News Association, so-called "economy" drives menace the Guild's hard-won gains in job security. Naturally the commercial press says little or nothing about these contributions to unemployment which it contemplates, under the guise of war emergency.

More Poison by Radio

SPONSORED by Roma Wine Co, "largest-selling wine in the country," the weekly "Liberty Magazine Short Short of the Air," Jan 18, had this plot:

A fine old character named McCormick, or something similar, employs a number of men on a construction job. He has to finish the job in a limited time or pay a heavy indemnity.

Enters the villain, new "boss" of the union to which McCormick's workers belong. This tough, side-of-the-mouth-talking labor leader first sasses McCormick. He then calls a union meeting, tells the men their previous leader was a rat, etc, and he's going to get them better money. When a couple of men protest that McCormick is really a wonderful fellow and could not possibly pay more without going broke, the nasty boss assigns a couple of horrendous "strong-

arm men" (so described) to squelch the dissenters.

McCormick then is notified that a strike has been voted. The sly union boss, however, is willing to sell out the men if McCormick will slip him five grand. At this point McCormick, the clever, courageous fellow, foils the dastardly, crooked union leader by announcing this whole conversation has been sent out via dictaphone to members of the union. The great twist at the end is that McCormick was bluffing, aided by a little ventriloquism that he happened to remember—from days at Yale, no doubt.

(If labor unions will protest each instance of such anti-labor propaganda on the air to Federal Communications Commission, Washington, the radio chains will be forced to give labor equal time to counteract this daily poison on the air.)

"The Public Be Damned"

THAT famous quotation, "the public be damned," credited to the founder of the Vanderbilt dynasty, has aroused considerable interest among journalism students, one of whom sends this report:

"A young reporter who wanted to make good had to get an interview with Vanderbilt. He tried many times to meet the capitalist, but of no avail. Being of a persistent nature, the reporter finally managed to head off Vanderbilt, as he was getting out of his limousine. Vanderbilt, for some reason, was hardly in a mood to meet reporters, much less grant interviews. In short, he was grouchy. The reporter begged and begged while the said grouch was getting madder and madder. Our persevering journalist then tried to touch a weak spot by entreating, "...but Mr Vanderbilt, your public. . . !" At this, Vanderbilt lost his temper and shouted, "The public be damned!" With this, he left in a huff."

"Business-as-Near-Usual"

ALTHOUGH Donald Nelson insists the auto industry go into tank and plane production—following the Truman report which names General Motors, Chrysler, Ford, etc, as saboteurs of defense—the statement that the auto makers "will fight for their country to the last passenger car" is confirmed in an article by R W Marks in February issue of Esquire. It concludes:

"Some prospective car purchasers—in a contagious wave of patriotic fervor—have put off buying new cars in a grand sacrifice gesture. The Automotive Industry is eager to offset this idea. Efficient national defense, Detroit et al hold, involves keeping up the total productive effort if not on a 'business-as-usual' basis . . . at least on a 'business as near to usual as possible.' . . . Every car you buy now helps build a better tank tomorrow."

Are You Moving?

Notifying IN FACT directly rather than the Post Office brings best results. Cut out your name and address from the front page, write your NEW address on it and mail to us with 5¢.

On all correspondence dealing with your subscription, it is essential that you cut out and enclose your name and address from the front page.

Back copies of IN FACT prior to No. 60 are no longer available.

the Guardian never paid its own way—and this is in spite of the fact that both its editor-in-chief and contributors gave their services virtually free. For ten years the annual deficit of the paper hovered around \$10,000 and since the outbreak of the present hostilities the deficit mounted rapidly.

"Indeed, had it not been for the contributions of a small number of well-situated friends of the paper, which in some instances amounted to thousands of dollars, the Guardian would have given up the ghost long ago. Also, the gathering of these contributions required a number of extended 'mooching' trips per year—which became increasingly burdensome, distasteful, and humiliating to me." LaFollette's Progressive weekly is taking over the subscription list.

RELEASE. This excellent fortnightly newsletter, in the style of IN FACT, was devoted to exposing anti-Semitism and other forms of Naziism in America. It was written by Morris and Frances Watson. Morris Watson is the hero of the Wagner Act; it was his being fired for union activities by the notorious anti-union Associated Press, the phony "cooperative" which serves the majority of daily newspaper publishers of America, that resulted in a test of the constitutionality of the Wagner Act. Labor won. The Supreme Court declared that an employe had the right to unionize. To this day the newspapers led by the anti-labor anti-Newspaper Guild NYTimes demand the destruction of the Wagner Act.

Apparently there were not enough persons interested in fighting anti-Semitism who were willing to pay 50¢ a year to keep Release going.

What's Wrong With the Chicago Sun?

CHICAGO SUN. Although this paper is not a casualty, this seems to be the proper place to report on the status of the second free, liberal newspaper run by Marshall Field III (reputedly worth from \$100,000,000 to \$300,000,000). The other Field paper is NY's PM.

The Chicago Sun was founded to give the middle west an honest morning paper in place of the Chicago Tribune (whose fakes and falsifications were only partly listed in IN FACT Nov 24 1941). Practically every intelligent man, woman and child in Chicago has expressed disgust with the Tribune and a desire for a good newspaper. Nevertheless, the Tribune claims it has increased its circulation by 100,000, to 1,100,000, and the Sun claims it has 300,000. Apparently Chicago people prefer the Gumps and Little Orphan Annie to honest journalism.

It is likely that the Sun circulation will increase if a way can be found to overcome the Tribune's skulduggery. In times past the Tribune employed gangsters, thugs, even murderers to help its circulation war with Hearst, who did likewise. A Chicago Newspaper Guildsman writes us: "I think it is true Trib is doing some circulation dirty work. Reports heard of Sun issues being stolen from homes by Trib men, and added sabotage of stealing milk from doorstep of Sun subscribers. . . . Loop stands display piles of Tribs, keep Sun stacked on sidewalk. Thousands of cases of Sun subscribers failing to receive. Tribune won't let its distributors handle Sun; one distributor had request for 400 Suns but couldn't deliver."

"Now as to whether the Sun is liberal: it is true Sun is not a crusading paper like Field's PM but I think the blame rests not upon Field directly but upon the staff he selected. It is made up of men, executives, who are for themselves first. They have contracts; they are conservatives. There is not a liberal or, God forbid, a radical among them. The Sun is not liberal, it is not progressive, it is synthetic or ersatz, in its attempt at liberalism. The blame rests on Field's choice of executives and the fact the paper carries advertising."

Another Chi newspaperman writes IN FACT "You mentioned Silliman Evans and Rex Smith [as reactionaries running the "liberal" Sun]. You might have added John Dienhart, city editor. He was political editor for Hearst Herald-Examiner. Guild claims Dienhart fostered a company union, organized on Examiner preceding the strike but after Guild had won contract via strike vote. Reports here say Mayor Kelly protested to Field about Dienhart; that a conference was held between Kelly and either Field or Evans; that the matter went as far as Harry Hopkins in the White House."

Milwaukee correspondent writes IN FACT: "When Field started Chi Sun it was hailed by business men in the middle west as welcome relief from McCormick's lies and Phil Hanna's childish fulminations in Journal of Commerce. Imagine our feelings on opening the Sun to find this reactionary (Hanna) on its permanent staff. Sample enclosed."

The Hanna column Jan 10 reports that "the professional labor organizing crowd" has been denied joint authority over defense production. Adds Hanna: "That smacked too much of the Communist invasion of private property a la the Spanish pattern." This is the typical Hearst attack on the Spanish Loyalists.

In the same column Hanna reports that "a well known publisher who has supported the New Deal" writes against excess profits tax. Hanna adds, "And now you may read the budget carefully and note how the New Deal is to be given plenty of money, despite the seriousness of the war and high taxes, to carry on its social reforms and its war on free enterprise." A final paragraph is a snipe at "Liberalism."

Marshall Field's NY paper once reported that the Nazis told its correspondent they were not afraid of America, because the only way America could win was to make America more democratic, and the Nazis did not think that would be done. Marshall Field's Chicago paper apparently hasn't heard about this.

announcing **IN FACT'S** subscription contest

When IN FACT decided to launch this "1/4 million" subscription contest we knew that "prizes" were not necessary to hold the loyalty and enthusiasm of our Winter Soldiers and other subscribers. We knew that no money or "prizes" in the world could have bought the splendid cooperation we have had. We knew that if we seriously intended to realize our goal of 1/4 million circulation it would be done only through our subscribers and Winter Soldiers. And not by the ordinary methods of promotion and advertising, even had we been able to raise a large promotion and advertising fund. We knew that with the closing down of Friday (Scoop), the American Guardian, Southern News Almanac, Release and now U. S. Week—IN FACT would have to accept greater responsibilities . . . of reaching greater numbers of people. Therefore this contest. It is a straightforward plan of building IN FACT through its readers. It includes rewarding our subscribers for the work they have contributed and will contribute now and after this contest is over. This contest will not serve to profit any person or group except you and "THE MILLIONS WHO WANT A FREE PRESS." Its success will help awaken America to the need for a free press—a press free from the control of powerful forces which work against the national interests and the general welfare of the people. In the May 25th issue, the second anniversary of IN FACT—we will announce the winners of the "1/4 million" circulation contest. I hope by then we will be further on our way to a 1/4 million circulation. IN FACT's success is the achievement of its readers.

George Seldes

*"a reward for every
contestant"*

A copy of George Seldes' new book **FREE**

Every contestant will not only have a chance to win one of the many main prizes listed on this page . . . but every contestant who sends in \$5 worth of subscriptions will receive a copy of George Seldes' new book:

"THE FACTS ARE . . ."

*A Guide to Falsehood and Propaganda
in the News and Radio*

This book is now being written. (Readers can assist by writing George Seldes a postcard naming the specific subjects that need most clarification.) An illustration is worth a thousand words, says the Chinese proverb. This book will give examples in pictures as well as in words of fake headlines, fake pictures, buncombe, falsehoods, plain lies, colored lies, propaganda, etc. designed to fool the American newspaper reader. The book will also deal with present war and the financial and economic powers which control our press.

"THE FACTS ARE . . ." will not be sold to the public. It will be printed exclusively for IN FACT and given to all contestants.

This book is yours, **FREE**, for the first five 1-year subscriptions at \$1 and/or \$1 renewals you send in. If sold to the public the retail price of "THE FACTS ARE . . ." would be \$1.50.

CONTEST RULES

1. Any person who is now a subscriber to IN FACT (except employees of IN FACT and their families) or who becomes a subscriber before May 8th, 1942, is eligible to take part. But only subscribers securing a minimum of 5 subscriptions at \$1 each will be considered contestants.
2. Special contest subscription forms may be had upon request. These blanks have been designed for the convenience of IN FACT's Contest Staff and their use is recommended; but subscriptions submitted in any form will be counted, provided they bear the contestant's name and are clearly marked "contest."
3. Subscribers entering the contest may receive the help of their families or friends in soliciting subscriptions. But subscription will be credited only to the actual contestant as recorded in our files.
4. Winners will be determined by the number of one-year subscriptions or renewals at \$1 mailed to IN FACT, Inc., 19 University Place, New York, N. Y. After January 31st but postmarked not later than 12 p.m., May 8th, 1942. A 2 year subscription at \$2 will be counted as two 1-year subscriptions. A 3-year subscription at \$3 will be counted as three 1-year subscriptions, etc.
5. All subscriptions must be accompanied by the full price of subscription. Amount due should be sent by Postal Money Order, check or registered mail.
6. Results of the contest will be made known in the issue dated May 25th. Prizes will be mailed postpaid anywhere in the US outside of New York City.
7. In the event of a tie for the 1st prize a like prize will be awarded.
8. The decisions of the judges (the Staff of IN FACT) shall be final.

FIRST PRIZE

A \$100 Defense Bond

To the contestant turning in the greatest number of IN FACT subscriptions at \$1.

10 SECOND PRIZES

A \$25.00 defense bond to each of the ten contestants turning in the next highest number of yearly subscriptions at \$1.

10 THIRD PRIZES

\$15.00 in defense stamps for the ten contestants turning in the next highest number of yearly subscriptions at \$1.

SPECIAL PRIZES

FOR 25 SUBSCRIPTIONS AT \$1—your choice of books or phonograph records worth up to \$7.00 retail.

FOR 20 SUBSCRIPTIONS AT \$1—your choice of books or phonograph records worth up to \$5.50 retail.

FOR 15 SUBSCRIPTIONS AT \$1—your choice of books or phonograph records worth up to \$4.00 retail.

FOR 10 SUBSCRIPTIONS AT \$1—your choice of any **FOUR** of the following books: Freedom of the Press, Witch Hunt, Lords of the Press and Sawdust Caesar, all by George Seldes; The Man Who Loved Children by Christina Stead; I Change Worlds by Anna Louise Strong; Touched with Madness by Hilton Howell Bailey; Son of the Father by Albert Halper; Harry Bridges on Trial by Estolove E. Ward; Look at Labor by Leon Goodelman or The Collection of 31 Water Color Reproductions of the War in Spain by SIM.

Winners of special prizes may select **ANY** book(s) or phonograph record(s) in print. Prizes will be mailed postpaid anywhere in the U. S. outside of New York City.